

338 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

the other hand there were published in 1873-1880 two volumes of letters from William* to his friend the Prince of Waldeck, edited by P. L. Mtiller, which do elucidate both.

These private letters illustrate William's character and temper at the most critical moment of his career, and their frankness and sincerity inspire confidence in every expression of opinion or feeling they contain. Waldeck was in command of the forces left to defend Holland against a possible attack from the French (who did not declare war against the Dutch till November 16-26) and to assist in the defence of western Germany.

The first letters, written in the autumn of 1688, deal with the preparations to be made against the French attack on Germany. Then comes one of October 26 announcing the Prince's intention to embark the next day. On November 2 follows another, announcing that the fleet has been scattered and driven back by a storm, but that it will put to sea as soon as possible—^f the greatest loss is the time and the horses, of which quite two hundred have been killed or wounded/ The next letter, written on November 16 from Exeter, proves that William was not discouraged by the slowness of his adherents in England to join him, as Macaulay suggests.²

The state of things here is in accordance with repre-

sentations made to me before my departure
from Holland,
so that I can hope, with God's blessing, to
succeed in this
great undertaking. The beginning is
favourable. ... It is
unfortunate that we have been obliged by the
wind to land
here in the west, where we are so much out of
the way of
correspondence with Holland that we are
quite out of the

¹Wilhelm III von Oranien und Georg Friedrich von
Waldeck (1873,
1880).

² III, 1144 (ix).